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Security Council

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Letter dated 4 April from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1975 (2011), in which the Council requested the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) to use all necessary means to prevent the use of heavy weapons against the civilian population and to keep the Council informed of the measures taken and efforts made in this regard.

As you are aware, the security situation in Abidjan has deteriorated dramatically over the past days with fighting having escalated between the forces loyal to President Ouattara and elements of the former Republican Guard and Special Forces who still remain loyal to Mr. Gbagbo. Over the past days, these forces loyal to Mr. Gbagbo have intensified their use of heavy weapons such as mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns against the civilian population.

These forces have also targeted UNOCI headquarters at the Sebroko Hotel with heavy calibre sniper fire as well as mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, wounding several peacekeepers. Furthermore, forces loyal to Mr. Gbagbo have attacked UNOCI patrols dispatched to protect civilians and convoys transporting the wounded in Abidjan, causing several more wounded peacekeepers.

Consequently, pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1975 (2011), I have instructed the Mission to take the necessary measures to prevent the use of heavy weapons against the civilian population, with the support of the French forces pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 1962 (2010).

We will keep the Security Council apprised of any further developments.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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